

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of notifying a speech related application of events generated by a speech related engine, comprising:

receiving a notification selection and an interest indication from the application at a middleware component between the application and the engine, the notification selection being indicative of a selected notification mechanism, selected by the application, for notifying the application of the events, the interest indication being indicative of events generated by the engine for which the application is to receive notification;
initializing a notification assistance component to notify the application according to the selected notification mechanism;
receiving an event indication including an event identifier from the engine, the event indication being indicative of an event generated by the engine; and
transferring the event indication from the middleware component to an output device that processes a data stream containing the event, and when the output device reaches a predetermined distance from the event in the data stream, notifying the middleware component;
transferring the event indication back to the middleware component;
notifying the application of the event indication from the middleware component according to the selected notification mechanism by transferring the event indication to the notification assistance component and notifying the application from the notification assistance component of the event indication;
receiving a request from the application at the middleware

component for the event identifier; and
transferring the event identifier from the middleware
component to the application.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~4~~1 wherein the predetermined distance comprises a predetermined offset in the data stream prior to the event.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~4~~1 wherein the event indication includes an event identifier identifying the event and wherein transferring the event indication back to the middleware component from the output device is performed regardless of whether the output device correlates the event identifier to the event it identifies.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~11~~1 wherein the middleware component comprises a middleware object and the

notification assistance component comprises an assistance object and wherein transferring the event indication to the notification assistance component comprises:

invoking a method exposed by the assistance object to notify the assistance object of the event indication; and
invoking a method exposed by the middleware component to obtain the event indication.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~1 wherein receiving an event indication from the engine comprises:

exposing a method on an engine interface on the middleware component to add events from the engine to an event queue in the middleware component.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

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30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)